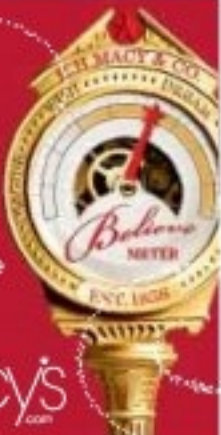


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Metro exclusive: Santa speaks

Despite a very hectic schedule crafting toys and checking who's been naughty or nice, Metro was able to snag a few moments of Santa Claus' time when he was gathering wish lists from kids of all ages at Macy's recently. We asked the busiest man of the holiday season about his gift-giving gig: Turns out that even in this economy, hard-working elves still receive pretty sweet bonuses. {page 19}

SMILY ANNE EPSTEIN/METRO

ACLU takes on Philly's Democratic machine

► Lawsuit filed last week claims committeewoman in Southwest blackballed ► Civil rights group alleges party leaders ignoring voters who elected her {page 02}

Sports

Eagles keep slim playoff hopes alive

► Mike Vick returns and Birds beat Dolphins, 26-10 {page 25}

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"To whatever degree complacency and pride once had a home in our local Church, events in the coming year will burn them out. The process will be painful."

CHARLES CHAPUT, ARCHBISHOP OF PHILADELPHIA, IN A LETTER TO PARISHIONERS DATED FRIDAY THAT WAS READ AT SERVICES YESTERDAY

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Taking on the city's political machine

► Elected as committeewoman in SW Philly, she says Democratic leaders have barred her from meetings

The American Civil Liberties Union is taking on Philadelphia's notoriously powerful Democratic machine, filing a class action lawsuit last week against the Democratic City Committee for its refusal to let elected committeewoman Tracey Gordon serve.

In spite of a judge's ruling against a DCC challenge to Gordon's ballot spot and subsequent election, she was escorted by police from a 40th Ward meeting in the summer. She hasn't been to a meeting since after party leaders cited a bylaw that barred unfaithful members from the party passed unanimously.

"When you put a name on the ballot and vote to elect someone, that person shouldn't be able to be removed by a vote of a private group take in a closed

room someplace," ACLU attorney Mary Catherine Roper said. Roper's organization alleges the DCC violated the civil rights of voters in the 40th Ward.

According to Gordon, an upset 40th Ward leader Ann Brown said in the courtroom hallway that the trouble could have been avoided, had the committeeperson asked her permission before running, which is not a legal requirement. Brown did not return calls for comment.

Gordon decided to run for committeeperson due to low voter turnout in her neighborhood.

"Sometimes, if you criticize the way the government is run, you step on people's toes," she said.



ALEX WIGGLESWORTH
awigglesworth@metro.us

'New people not welcome'

"Part of the motivation, it seems, to not allow Tracey Gordon to be seated is that she did not ask the ward leader to run for committeeperson — she

just did it on her own — and she encouraged other people where she lived to run for open seats," said attorney Gloria Gilman, a former committeeperson. She said that ward meetings have "an atmosphere such that new people are not welcome."

● METRO/AW



► Gordon, in her home near Cobbs Creek Parkway yesterday, said party leaders have a problem with her simply because she failed to ask permission to run.

"Part of the motivation to not allow Tracey Gordon to be seated is that she did not ask the ward leader to run, she just did it on her own."

GILMAN

"The point is you have violated my civil rights and the civil rights of people in my district. This is bully politics and it needs to be stopped."

GORDON

"We can't comment, as it is an ongoing legal matter."

U.S. REP. BOB BRADY, DEMOCRATIC CITY COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN

Delco native who rose to be Vatican leader dead

DARBY. Cardinal John Patrick Foley, grand master emeritus of the Equestrian Order of the Holy Sepulchre of Jerusalem and former president of the Pontifical Council for Social Communications, died yesterday morn-

ing. He was 76.

Foley, of Sharon Hill, attended Saint Joseph's College and Saint Charles Borromeo Seminary. He was the seventh Philadelphia priest to become a cardinal. ● METRO/AW



► Foley

Gunfire leaves three teens injured

NORTH PHILADELPHIA. Three teens were shot Saturday night, leaving one in critical condition.

The shooting occurred on the 2800 block of North Taney Street at 5 p.m. A

14-year-old was shot in the chest, a 19-year-old was shot in the hip and abdomen and a 17-year-old was shot in the hand.

All victims were taken to Temple Hospital. The first was listed in critical condition requiring surgery, the second was critical but stable and the third was stable. ● METRO/AW

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Shaking stirs NJ during the weekend

NEW JERSEY. Residents from Atlantic County along the southern shore to big cities in the north reported slight earth shaking Saturday morning, according to

reports, but a geologist told one newspaper that it was not an earthquake.

The Press of Atlantic City reported that no earthquake was registered by the U.S. Geological Survey when people felt the shaking at about 10 a.m., but the USGS also had no idea what might have caused similar disturbances throughout the Garden State. **METRO**

Paterno in hospital after fall



PENNSYLVANIA. Former Penn State University football coach Joe Paterno again suffered a broken pelvis in a fall, according to an Associated Press report yesterday.

Paterno, undergoing treatment for cancer in the wake of the sex abuse scandal involving former assistant Jerry Sandusky, was admitted to the hospital Saturday after a fall, the AP reported. **METRO**

Charity in Philly gets amped up

- ▶ Metro Magic, our toy drive, has your attention this holiday season
- ▶ Your gifts are filling up our office

Christmas season is in full stride, with songs about Santa dominating the radio, red and green lights adorning houses on every block and hundreds of avid Metro readers having bought a gift through our first annual toy drive.

By this weekend, many readers already clicked on the drive's logo at www.metro.us and picked out a gift that U.S. Marines from the local Toys for Tots charity will eventually pick up soon.

Staff Sgt. Ricky Wilson, who runs the Toys for Tots based in Folsom that collects gifts every holiday season for poor children in Delaware County and Philadelphia, will come to our Center City office in

Tots' history

Toys for Tots started in 1947, when a group of U.S. Marine reservists got together and cleaned up small toys and gave them away to needy families. Now it's one of the biggest nonprofits in the nation.

▶ Toys for Tots works by giving away the toys they collect to other nonprofits in the greater Philadelphia region.

▶ Last year they got 600 requests from charities to receive toys. They have drop-off boxes set up throughout the city.

the next two weeks to collect the presents. **METRO**

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▶ Selecting only the toys on our wish list ensures that all the gifts will be shipped to our offices and then picked up by Toys for Tots.

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2011

When Metro launched the Man and Woman of the Year event in November, we knew that this year, groups of people, such as the Navy SEAL Team 6 who killed Osama bin Laden, would be nominated. For that reason, instead of the usual Man of the Year shortlist, and a separate Woman of the Year shortlist, we are producing just a single shortlist of three nominees for the title of Person of the Year 2012.

And the nominees are ...

The list is headed by the co-founder of Apple, **Steve Jobs**, who died in October. Also making the shortlist are the **Occupy protesters** — or the 99 percent as they were alternatively labeled by the hundreds of readers who nominated them. The third nominee on the list is Congresswoman **Gabrielle Giffords**, who was shot in January by a lone gunman, and whose subsequent recovery proved an inspiration to millions.

How to vote:

Vote for your favorite by emailing mwoy@metro.us. Metro will update readers on voting each day. Voting closes at 5 p.m. on Wednesday, Dec. 21, and we'll be announcing our winner in Metro's special end-of-year edition on Dec. 27.

Gingrich fights off rivals in GOP debate

- Current frontrunner keeps his cool against attacks from Romney, Perry
- Mitt offers \$10,000 bet that rival doesn't know what he's talking about



► Republican presidential candidates participate in a GOP presidential debate at Drake University on Saturday.

Surging frontrunner Newt Gingrich fought off heavy attacks in a presidential debate in Iowa on Saturday from Republican rivals who portrayed him as a Washington insider and questioned his judgment.

Gingrich, described by some critics as rash and petulant, kept his cool as his Republican rivals criticized him for making up to \$1.6 million from housing giant Freddie Mac, for saying Palestinians were an "invented" people and for

his troubled marital past.

Mitt Romney, the former frontrunner and once the presumed nominee, contrasted his business experience with Gingrich's background in Washington.

"We don't need folks who are lifetime Washington people," Romney said, adding his time as head of a private equity firm helped him understand how to turn around the economy and made him more electable than a Washington politician like Gingrich.

Quoted

"Let's be candid. The only reason you didn't become a career politician is you lost to Teddy Kennedy (in Massachusetts Senate election) in 1994."

- Gingrich to Romney

"I spent my life in the private sector. I understand how the economy works and I believe that for Americans to say goodbye to President Obama and elect a Republican, they need to

have confidence that the person they're electing knows how to make this economy work again."

- Romney on his differences with Gingrich

"You're for individual mandates. And you can get up and stand up and talk about, 'I'm against it now.' ... But the record is very clear, you and Newt were for individual mandates and that is the problem."

- Perry on Romney's health care reform in Mass.

Romney's \$10,000 bet falls flat

Republican presidential candidate Mitt Romney put his money where his mouth was on Saturday in a quip at a presidential debate that may have backfired.

Romney, a multi-millionaire, offered a \$10,000 bet to opponent Texas Gov. Rick Perry over what Romney wrote about health care in his book "No Apologies." Romney's wealth has long been a point of attack by those who say he is out of touch with Americans. **REUTERS**

It was the first debate since Gingrich roared past Romney to take a big lead in polls in the Republican battle to pick a 2012 challenger to President Barack Obama, and the other candidates were quick to attack.

U.S. Reps. Michele Bachmann and Ron Paul criticized Gingrich as a hypocrite who profited from his contacts and wound up taking taxpayer money when Freddie Mac was bailed out by the federal government. **REUTERS**

Iran says EU will not impose oil sanctions

TEHRAN. The European Union "definitely" will not impose sanctions on OPEC member Iran's oil exports

because such a measure would harm the global crude market, Iranian Oil Minister Rostam Qasemi said on Sunday.

EU leaders called on Friday for more sanctions against Iran by the end of January, in an effort to increase pressure on Tehran over its disputed nuclear program.

"Our policy is sustainable supply of oil to Europe. ... Iran is a major oil producer and any sanctions on our oil export market," Qasemi said.

Last week, EU foreign ministers agreed to develop new sanctions on Iran's energy, transport and banking sectors. **REUTERS**



► Noriega

Noriega heads home to prison

PANAMA CITY. Manuel Noriega, Panama's ruthless drug-running military dictator of the 1980s, was moved to a jungle prison in his home country yesterday to serve a 20-year term for the murders of opponents during his

rule.

Noriega, now 77, was toppled in a U.S. invasion of Panama in 1989. He has spent the last two decades behind bars — first in Florida and then in France after being convicted for drug trafficking and money laundering during his time in power. **REUTERS**

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SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
18	19	20 WAS 7:00 (Pre-season)	21	22	23	24
25	26 POR 10:00	27	28 PHO 9:00	29	30 UTA 9:00	31 GS 9:00

JANUARY

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
1	2	3	4 NOH 8:00	5	6 DET 7:00	7 TOR 8:00
8	9 IND 7:00	10 SAC 7:00	11 NY 7:30	12	13 WAS 7:00	14 WAS 7:00
15	16 MIL 2:00	17	18 DEN 7:00	19	20 ATL 7:00	21 MIA 7:30
22	23 WAS 7:00	24	25 NJ 7:00	26	27 CHA 7:00	28 DET 7:00
29	30 ORL 7:00	31				

FEBRUARY

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
			1 CHI 7:00	2	3 MIA 7:00	4 ATL 7:00
5	6 LAL 7:00	7	8 SAN 7:00	9	10 LAC 7:00	11 CLE 7:30
12	13 CHA 7:00	14	15 ORL 7:00	16	17 DAL 7:00	18
19 MIN 7:00	20	21 MEM 8:00	22 HOU 8:00	23	24	25
26	27	28 DET 7:30	29 OKC 7:00			

MARCH

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
				1	2 GS 8:00	3
4 CHI 7:00	5 MIL 8:00	6	7 BOS 7:00	8	9 UTA 7:00	10
11 NY 12:00	12	13	14 IND 7:00	15	16 MIA 7:00	17 CHI 8:00
18	19 CHA 7:00	20	21 NY 7:00	22	23 BOS 8:00	24
25 SAN 7:00	26	27 CLE 7:00	28	29	30 WAS 7:00	31 ATL 7:30

APRIL

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
1	2	3 MIA 7:30	4 TOR 7:00	5	6	7 ORL 8:00
8 BOS 8:00	9	10 NJ 7:30	11 TOR 7:00	12	13 NJ 7:00	14
15	16 ORL 7:00	17 IND 7:00	18 CLE 7:00	19	20	21 IND 7:00
22	23 NJ 7:30	24	25 MIL 8:00	26 DET 8:00	27	28

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Crane 'carries' moon in illusion

SWITZERLAND. They're good at banking, cuckoo clocks and chocolates, and it looks like the Swiss are also handy at getting a hook onto the moon. In truth this is just an optical illusion, an amazing example of forced perspective photography. Amateur photographer Bruno Gerber took this shot from his friend's roof in Bern.

The 37-year-old corporate lawyer from near Zurich offers advice on a mind-boggling image: "Keep your eyes open, think ahead (e.g. where the moon or sun will go, how a shadow moves) and don't sit idle. But I'm not a fan of overly set-up, silly illusion shots with people." • METRO WORLD NEWS



Did someone ask for the moon?

► In this photographic optical illusion shot in Switzerland, a construction crane appears to be holding the moon.

Quoted



"I waited seven minutes for the moon to rise and get 'hooked' onto the crane."

BRUNO GERBER,
AMATEUR PHOTOGRAPHER

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THE WORD



Metro's **Dorothy Robinson** shares her take on the world of gossip [@dorothyatmetro](#) dorothy.robinson@metro.us

The perils of party-rocking

While **Demi Lovato** whizzed by the press line at Z100's Jingle Ball Friday night — an annual New York City concert featuring a number of Top 40 acts — we were happy to chat with **RedFoo** of **LMFAO**, who's partner **SkyBlu** was noticeably absent for the big show.

"SkyBlu hurt his back," Foo told Metro before the concert started. "He has some herniated discs. He's been performing for a while injured, because he's a true champion, but the doctor

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said, 'You gotta take a break.' That shuffle move we do, when he does it, I always tell him you need to bend [at the knee]. And then with the wiggle, you can't wiggle too hard, even if there's sexy ladies in the au-

dience screaming at you — you gotta keep it confined. So we don't know exactly what has happened, but we think it's [a combination of] the shuffle, the wiggle and the ladies."

But SkyBlu's injury isn't holding the group back for the new year. On their to-do list for 2012? "Films," Foo says. "Taking the whole LMFAO party rock lifestyle and putting it on the big screen."

— With additional reporting by **Meredith Engel**



RedFoo of LMFAO performed at Z100's Jingle Ball on Friday night.

Abigail's lips are sealed

Also on the carpet before Jingle Ball was "New Year's Eve" star **Abigail Breslin**, who looked all grown up in a Rag & Bone dress and smoky eye makeup. But the 15-year-old movie star and budding songstress

(Jingle Ball was her first appearance as a singer in the band **C.A.B.B.**) tells us that going through puberty in the public eye hasn't been weird for her.

"When I come home, I do the same things all my friends do — clean my room, feed the dog. There are definitely pressures,

but I think that keeping perspective is really important," Breslin tells Metro.

But that doesn't mean she doesn't have her cringe-worthy moments.

"2008 was just a really big fashion mistake," she says, "with the arm warmers, the neon



Breslin

and zebra-print Converse."

And since Abigail's character in "New Year's Eve" is hoping to get her first kiss on the big night, we wanted to know what her first kiss was like — but she wouldn't spill.

"I'll keep the offscreen kisses offscreen," she tells us.

Talking points

Aniston wins for 'Sexiest' of all time

Men's Health has dubbed **Jennifer Aniston** the Sexiest Woman of All Time, but while she's flattered by their decision, Aniston insists the title would've gone to someone else if she had any say in it. "It's a tie between **Brigitte Bardot**



Are there problems at William McKinley High School?

and **Gloria Steinem**," she tells the magazine. "But if I had to choose one, I'd say **Gloria** because, well, she's the full package. That's sexy." **Raquel Welch**, **Marilyn Monroe**, **Britney Spears** and **Madonna** rounded out the top five.

A not so 'Glee'-ful set

Tensions are reportedly running high on the set of "Glee" as the cast of the hit musical series is said to be at odds with boss **Ryan Murphy**,

according to *Us Weekly*. "Things are really bad on set," a show source says. "The cast talks about how much they love **Ryan**, but they have grown to hate him." The main complaints have reportedly been about long working hours and low pay, but Murphy's behavior is a factor as well. "He has bad mood swings and can be really mean," a source says. "The cast has been speaking about banding together against him, and **Lea Michele** is leading the charge." Michele's rep denies there's any tension.



The feed ...

► Checking in with some of Hollywood's biggest names to see what they've been up to — in their own words, in 140 characters or fewer.

Today, **Kelly Osbourne** is not having a great day, **Justin Bieber** is hitting the ice, **Elizabeth Banks** is pleasantly surprised and **Conan O'Brien** is getting into the holiday spirit.

► **@MissKellyO**
i have the worlds worst head ache sitting in the dark all moody because of it!

► **@justinbieber**
A little #hockey with the fellas

► **@ElizabethBanks**
This public gas station rest room is two ticks better than exactly what you're expecting.

► **@ConanOBrien**
I took my kids to see the guy in the red suit today. That's right, the Spider-Man on Hollywood Boulevard.



Bieber

myentertainment



Tori Amos gets spiritual and other pics from the weekend

1. Tori Amos performed at Massey Hall at Massey Hall on Thursday in Toronto.

2. Angelina Jolie and Brad Pitt attended the premiere of Jolie's new film "In the Land of Blood and Honey" on Thursday in Hollywood.

3. Actor Robert Downey, Jr. and director Guy Ritchie attended "Sherlock Holmes: Games Of Shadows" at Hassler Hotel on Sunday in Rome, Italy.

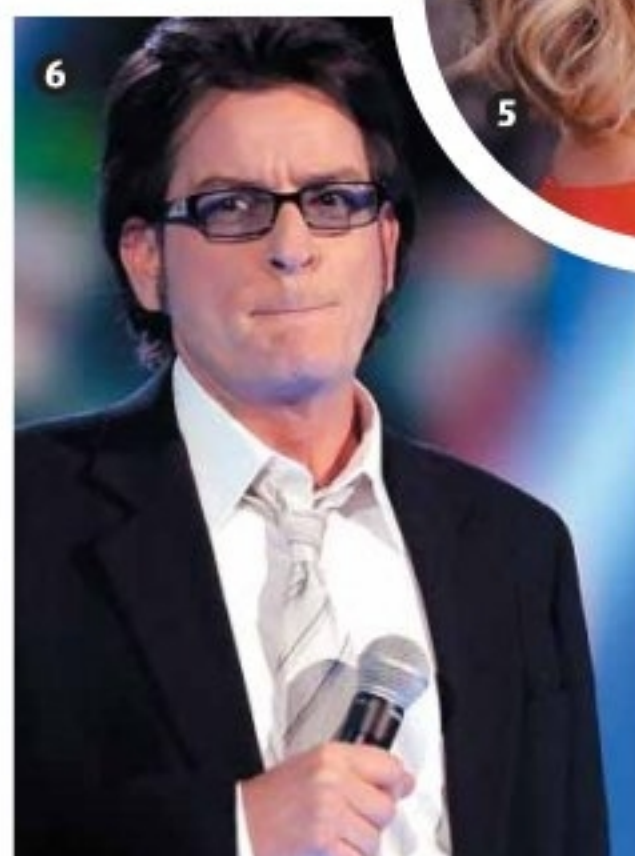
4. Fergie and Olivia Munn attended The Hollywood Foreign Press Association and InStyle's "A Night of Firsts" at Cecconi's Restaurant on Thursday in Los Angeles.

5. Charlize Theron attended the world premiere of "Young Adult" at the Ziegfeld Theatre on Thursday in New York City.

6. Oh, hey, remember Charlie Sheen? He spoke onstage at Spike TV's "2011 Video Game Awards" at Sony Studios on Saturday in Los Angeles.

7. Sarah Jessica Parker was spotted with her daughter Marion on Friday in New York City.

1: JAG CORDO/GETTY IMAGES
2: ERIC CHARBONNEAU/WIREIMAGE
3: ELISABETTA A. VILLARI/GETTY IMAGES
4: JOHN SHEARER/GETTY IMAGES FOR INSTYLE
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Strike a pose

Four-limb staff pose, aka the Chaturanga Dandasana

What to do:

1 Get into a plank (push-up) position, then firm your shoulder blades against your back ribs and press your tailbone towards your pelvis.

2 On an exhale, lower your torso and legs to a few inches above and parallel to the floor. Keep the tailbone firmly



► This pose is part of the sun salutation sequence.

in place and the legs active and turned inward. Draw the pelvis towards the navel.

3 Keep the space between the shoulder blades broad and don't let the elbows splay out to the sides. Hold them in by the sides of the torso and push them back toward the heels.

4 Press the bases of the index fingers firmly to the floor. Lift the top of the breastbone and your head to look forward.

5 Hold for 10 to 30 seconds. Release with an exhalation.

— Stephanie Knutsson, Bodyism Yoga instructor

By the numbers

Women and holiday tasks

A new study from Sleepy's says that over the holidays, women are more stressed out than men.

► **55 percent** of women expect to spend between one and four hours a night performing holiday-related tasks in December.

► **56 percent** said they take time "late at night, after mid-

night" or "early in the morning before anyone else wakes" to complete a variety of seasonal chores (compared to 34 percent of men).

Chores they're doing:

► **Making or wrapping gifts** (46 percent of women; 18 percent of men)

► **Baking, cooking or cleaning** (94 percent of women; 17 percent of men baking and cooking, 34 percent cleaning)

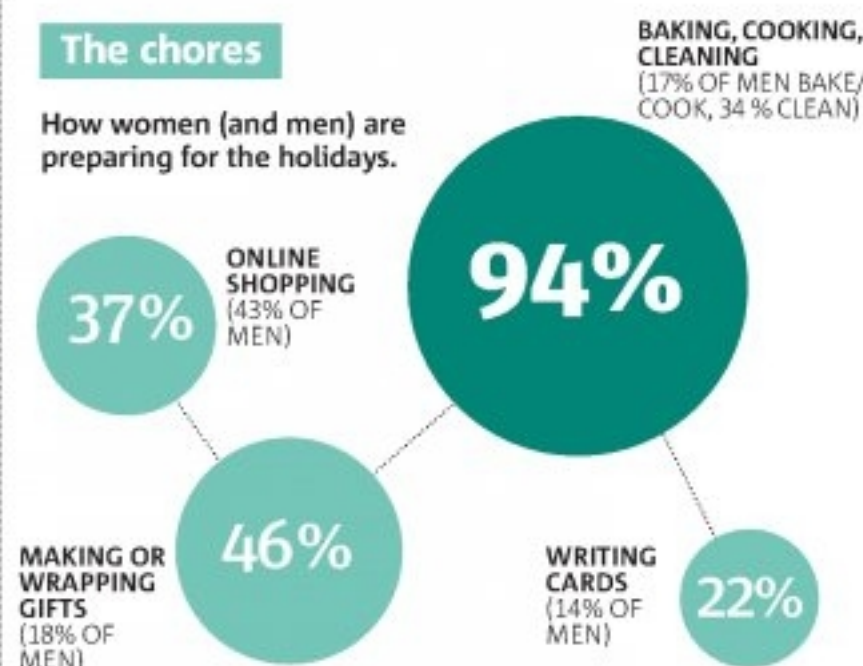
► **Online shopping** (37 percent of women; 43 percent of men)

► **Writing cards** (22 percent of women; 14 percent of men)

● METRO/ME

The chores

How women (and men) are preparing for the holidays.


NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING AND PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD
PHILADELPHIA HOUSING AUTHORITY

MOVING TO WORK ANNUAL PLAN FOR MTW YEAR TWELVE/PHA FISCAL YEAR 2013

The Philadelphia Housing Authority is a participant in the Moving To Work Demonstration Program (MTW). PHA is soliciting public comments on its Moving To Work Annual Plan for MTW Year Twelve (MTW Annual Plan), which describes PHA's policy initiatives and proposed activities for the period April 1, 2012 to March 31, 2013.

Copies of the Draft MTW Annual Plan are available for public review or may be picked up at the following locations:

Philadelphia Housing Authority's Housing Choice Voucher Leasing Offices:

2850 Germantown Ave 1st & 2nd Floor
1172-74 S. Broad Street
4346 Frankford Avenue

3100 Pennrose Ferry Road
5207 Walnut Street

Scattered Sites Management Offices:

3417 Spring Garden Street
3226 McMichael Street
400 W. Huntingdon Street

1821 Vineyard Street
3218 Susquehanna Avenue

Public Housing Management Offices:

Bartram - 5404 Gibson Drive
Raymond Rosen - 2301 W. Edgely Street

Wilson Park - 2500 Jackson Street
Blumberg - 2311 W. Jefferson St.

PHA residents, Housing Choice Voucher participants and the general public may attend the public hearing described below and/or submit written comments on the MTW Annual Plan any time during the comment period. Public hearings will be conducted at the following times and location:

Tuesday, December 13, 2011
Wilson Park Community Center
2500 Jackson Street
Philadelphia, PA 19145
1:00 pm to 3:00 pm

Wednesday, December 14, 2011
John F. Street Center
1100 Poplar Street
Philadelphia, PA 19123
10:00 am to 12:00 pm

Only comments pertaining to the draft MTW Annual Plan are being solicited. The comment period begins November 30, 2011 (12 noon) and ends December 30, 2011 (12 noon). All comments must be received by the end of the comment period. Please send your written comments to:

Philadelphia Housing Authority
Office of Strategic Management
Attention: MTW Comment
1800 S. 32nd Street Philadelphia, PA 19145

This Public Hearing is being held in an accessible location. If you require assistance, sign language interpreter or other accommodations, please call 215-684-4000. Please use the AT&T Relay Service for TTY.



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Tackling your

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► All wrapped up in holiday stress? Lessen the pressure by declining some invitations and giving low-cost gifts, like a homemade meal.

Local Minister Set to Launch Holiday Celebration of Transformation and Inclusion

By Aaron Hyndman

PHILADELPHIA — Bishop Dr. Lionel Parsons knows that when it's time to make a difference, you can't do it from afar. That's why Dr. Parsons, pastor of New Harvest Family Worship center, established his Transformation Center outreach ministry in one of Philadelphia's most downtrodden and crime-ridden neighborhoods.

Dr. Parsons rolled up his sleeves and got to work bringing a message of revitalization and empowerment to a place that so desperately needed it. Church members that used to come in with loaded guns are now making a positive contribution to the community. "It's not unusual to have drug dealers show up at an urban church," said Dr. Parsons. "What is unusual is for a church to truly transform them."

In doing so, Dr. Parsons has built a place where religion as usual is not the status quo. "You don't have to have been raised in the church to be able to be a part of my church," said Dr. Parsons. The power of this approach has manifested itself in the establishment of a ministry that is multicultural and inclusive. As Dr. Parsons says, "it's a place for all people."

This concept isn't just for a single neighborhood in Philadelphia anymore, though. Dr. Parsons is launching an effort to take his message of inclusion far and wide. The movement kicks off with "A New Way to Celebrate," a festival of music and ministry that takes place at Philadelphia's Liacouras Center from December 15th to 17th.

The first two nights feature preaching from nationally renowned speaker Paula White and music from Dorinda-Clark Cole and Wess Morgan. Saturday's main event features a concert from gospel legend Fred Hammond, along with Smokie Norful and James Fortune, and tickets can be purchased through the Liacouras Center Box Office. "This is set to be one of the most important gospel events the area has ever seen, especially for the Christmas season," said Dr. Parsons.

To attend "A New Way to Celebrate," contact the Liacouras Center Box Office or ComcastTix at 1-800-298-4200. Admission to Thursday and Friday's events is a Free Will Offering, while tickets for Saturday are priced at \$40, \$50 and \$60 each. There is also a limited number of RESERVED VIP TICKETS available for \$200 apiece, which guarantees priority seating all three evenings.

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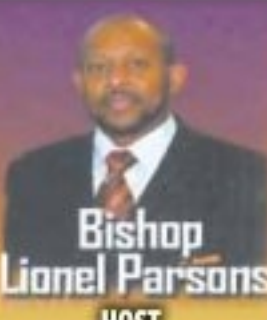
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holiday stress

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JONATHAN ALPERT

► It's the most wonderful time of the year — but not for everyone ► If you're overwhelmed, you're not alone ► Celebrate the season your way

You can start to feel better by knowing you are not alone. Test it out — go and poll 10 people about the holiday season. My guess is that at least five would express that it's all too much. Accept the notion that we live in a society that is driven by the dollar — and during the holiday season, this is all magnified by big-box retailers and the like. This materialism is not an expression of what the holidays truly represent, nor do extravagance and expensive gifts equal happiness. You have a choice: Participate in it or don't.

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The question

I'm finding myself really stressed out this holiday season. Due to work issues, I hardly have any money this year to buy gifts and attend parties. I feel embarrassed about it. I just want to close my eyes and wake up on Jan. 2. What can I do to feel better?

the shopping malls. Cook a dinner for a friend, promise to do some yard work or housework for your parents, babysit a sibling's kid or simply spend time with a long-lost friend. The most memorable gift you can give someone is an experience, not a material item. People remember activities and experiences long after the fleeting excitement of a toy, article of clothing or other material gift.

As for the holiday parties, know that you actually have some control over what you participate in. Ask yourself: Do I have to attend every party? Are you saying yes because you feel pressured to do so? Don't feel compelled to accept every

invitation. Get comfortable saying "no" to what you don't want and "yes" to the things you truly believe in. I guarantee you'll feel less resentful and much calmer during the holidays.

Finally, examine your negativity. Is there something positive you can glean from the season? By making small changes to how you think, you'll be able to make big changes in how you feel.

— *Jonathan Alpert is a licensed psychotherapist. Find him on Facebook and Twitter, and look for his new book, "BE FEARLESS: Change Your Life in 28 Days," this April.*

Metro does not endorse the opinions of the author, or any opinions expressed on its pages.

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myentertainment

Torture, terror and theater in 2011

► 'Why Torture is Wrong, and the People Who Love Them' is a comedy, albeit a political one ► Why one local company decided to take on the touchy topic

Terrorism may be no laughing matter, but New City Stage Company's 2011-2012 season manages to take a slightly skewed perspective on the War on Terror. When Osama bin Laden was located and killed earlier this year, New City producing artistic director Ginger Dayle found herself thinking, "I feel like terrorism is a different kind of threat than it was a month after 9/11."

"The Terror Within" thus became the overarching theme for New City's sixth season. "Part of our mission statement says

If you go

'Why Torture is Wrong, and the People Who Love Them'
Through Jan. 8
Adrienne Theatre
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www.newcitystage.org

that we like to do work that is relevant to the Philadelphia community and that other people aren't doing," Dayle explains. "So I pick a theme for the season based on a current event or a current

notion."

The season begins with Bucks County-based playwright Christopher Durang's "Why Torture is Wrong, and the People Who Love Them," a raucous farce about a woman's drunken wedding to a man who may or may not be a terrorist. "Durang really puts his liberal politics out there," Dayle, who also acts in the play, says. "But I think people of any political favoring will find it humorous."

SHAUN BRADY
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► From left: Ginger Dayle, Paul L. Nolan and Sam Henderson star in "Why Torture is Wrong, and the People Who Love Them."

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Metro readers are more than **TWICE** as likely than the average Philadelphia resident to plan to go back to school.

Source: Scarborough R2 2010, Base 35K+

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Long live 'The Simpsons'

► As the series approaches 500 episodes, creator Matt Groening says there's no real end in sight — though there was a threat of one recently

Despite a contract squabble earlier this year that might have brought an end to "The Simpsons," Matt Groening's animated comedy is still kicking — and will be indefinitely, he says. And with the show's 500th episode airing in February, it doesn't look like "The Simpsons" will give up its title of longest-running American prime-time series anytime soon. But what would an eventual end look like? Series creator Groening says he doesn't plan to be around to find out.

Do you know how the show is going to end? Do you have the last episode in mind?
I think everybody who works on the show has a secret final episode in mind.



However, we inadvertently, accidentally might have already animated one we thought might be the final episode, and that is our Christmas episode coming up, which shows the Simpsons in the future. It's a very sweet and touching episode. There's a great scene of adult Bart and

adult Lisa together talking about their family, in the tree house. They're in Bart's tree house, and they're drunk.

You got a bit of press over contract negotiations earlier, with talk of the series ending. How did that get worked out?
This is a dilemma that most shows face. As the years go by, people get raises. It gets more expensive, and at a certain point, financially, a decision has to be made.

Do you have any plans for life after "The Simpsons"?
I think we're going to keel over while doing this show. We don't see any end in sight.



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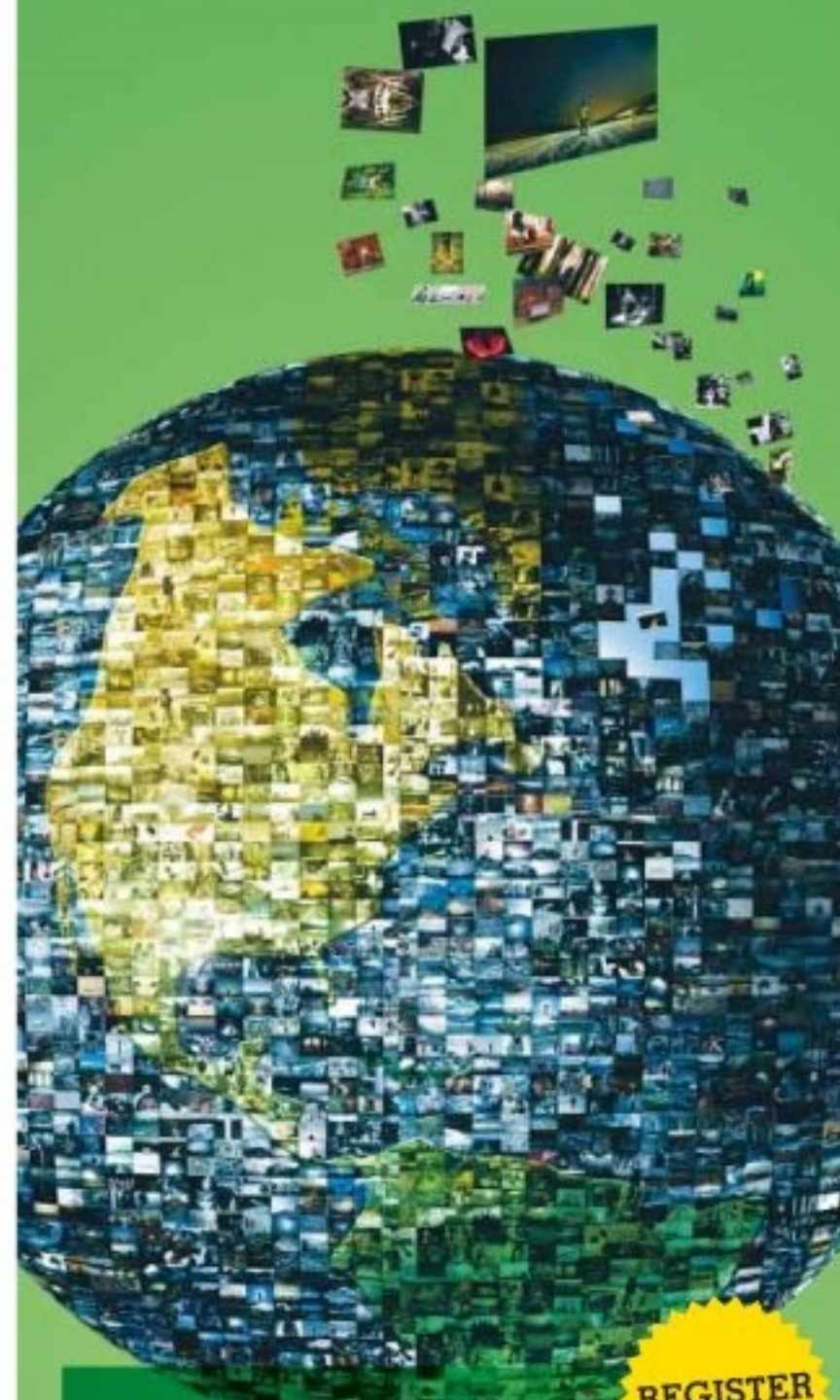
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Playing the party girl

► Ari Graynor talks about 'getting into the ring' with Jonah Hill for 'The Sitter' ► What the most awkward day at work entails

If there's one girl who knows her way around the role of brash party girl, it's 28-year-old Bostonian Ari Graynor. As a severely inebriated best pal in "Nick and Norah's Infinite Playlist" and more recently as a "friend with benefits" to Jonah Hill's character in "The Sitter," Graynor's got the formula for chemically enhanced flake down to a science. But this time around, with "Pineapple Express" director David Gordon Green at the helm and Hill carrying the film, Graynor got to improvise her way through what was already a solid script.

"When you're working with someone like Jonah, who is so talented and so smart and knows how to guide improvisations that work for a character and for the story, it's much easier to loosen up and play around," she says. "That's the luxury of working with such talented people — that you have a guide ... that you know it's going to be guided down the right path. There's an ease to it."

"That's always an interesting day at work — when you find yourself with a new friend's head between your legs and 100 people standing around."

GRAYNOR

One thing that was perhaps not so easy was the opening scene of the film, in which Hill's character is, ahem, servicing Graynor in a very personal way.

"So, that's always an interesting day at work — when you find yourself with a new friend's head between your legs and 100 people standing around. Like, really?" Graynor laughs. "This is what I'm doing? I have some friends that are becoming doctors or social workers. They're teaching kids in the Bronx and here I am with my legs spread, fake-orgasming, just trying to get through it without ruining the take. It's one way to make a living."



► These two have been close — incredibly close. "The Sitter" is in theaters now.

Graynor goes Broadway

Graynor is currently starring in the Broadway play "Relatively Speaking," which features three one-act plays. Alongside works by Ethan Coen and Elaine May is Woody Allen's play,

"Honeymoon Motel," in which Graynor stars.

"Woody Allen would be doing Woody Allen to me and then I'd be doing it back to him and then I'd run on onstage," she says of her working relationship with the legendary director. "We'd

have notes after every show in the theater. That in and of itself is worth its weight in gold. And, if I happen to find myself in one of his movies, then even better."



HEIDI PATALANO
heidi.patalano@metro.us

TV watch list

'Fear Factor'

REALITY. What's old is gross again as "Fear Factor" and host Joe Rogan return from a six-year hiatus with bigger stunts and more disgusting bugs on the menu. Season premiere, 8 p.m., NBC

'Enlightened'

COMEDY. Amy convinces Levi to seek treatment, but if there's one thing we've



► This challenge: "Cow Heart Transfer." Yep, "Fear Factor" is back.

MICHAEL WEAVER/NBC

learned this season, it's that this woman is still a work in progress herself — as seen when she defies Dougie at work and makes a presentation to Damon's group. Season finale, 9:30 p.m., HBO

'Battle of the Nutcrackers'

REALITY. No, this isn't a fastest walnut squasher competition. (Hey, if "Fear Factor" exists, why can't our idea?) This is an international ballet faceoff hosted by Nigel Lythgoe

and Debbie Allen, with viewers' favorite rendition on the holiday classic revealed on Christmas Eve. 8 p.m., Ovation

'Rollin' with Zach'

REALITY. Zach Anner, co-winner of Oprah's "Your OWN Show," hosts this new travel series, in which the 27-year-old with cerebral palsy travels the nation ticking Top 5 moments off his must-see list. Series premiere, 8 p.m., OWN • AMBER RAY



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► This French duo's sophomore album, 'Both Ways Open Jaws,' is destined for late entry year-end 'best of' lists, as well as early entry 'ones to watch' lists

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THE DØ

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"Both Ways Open Jaws," the recently released album by The Dø, enters through a rare window in time where it will probably make a lot of music publications' "best of 2011" lists. Then when writers who don't put it on that list see that some of their peers have chosen it, the French duo's album will inevitably make their "ones to watch in 2012" lists.

"Both Ways" is worthy of both. It instantly feels classic and contemporary. And like the most exciting music, the album is rife with unexpected combinations that sometimes seem at opposite ends of the spectrum — it is celebratory and it is agitated; it is majestic and it is raw; it is artsy and it is

poppy. Basically, it sounds the way you'd expect Lady Gaga to sound if you had only ever seen photos of her.

There are free jazz freak-outs, stomping feet, woozy horns, marimbas and soft blankets of harmonies. What is most apparent is that Olivia Merilahti and Dan Levy are in love with sounds as well as songs.

"Usually, guitar is the first instrument I use for the songwriting," says Merilahti. "We think it's really important to have a song that also works with just guitar and vocals. ... But it usually gets eliminated by more interesting sounds and there's just no room anymore for that guitar."

This album is the second for The Dø. With their de-

Why dø they call themselves that?

The Dø pronounce their name like "dough" as in the first note of the solfège scale, as in do-re-mi-fa-so-la-ti-do. But what is that little slash through the o?

"We just wanted it to look like a note, like when you write music in music theory," says Merilahti. "It really looks like a musical symbol."

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PROFILE OF THE DØ

but, "A Mouthful," they became the first English-speaking French act to top the charts in their homeland.

"I spoke Finnish and French when I started speaking," says Merilahti. "Then I just listened to so many different [English-speaking] singers and I really wanted to know what the songs were about, so I always read the booklets very carefully and wanted to learn the words I didn't know. That's how I built my vocabulary."

She says the first song she learned this way was Hole's "Violet," with its opening line of, "And the sky was made of amethyst." Merilahti makes similar poetic leaps with her words.

"I really have a certain distance with the lyrics and

Sounds kinda like

There are hints of influences all over "Both Ways Open Jaws," but instead of rattling them off as reference points, we gave Merilahti a chance to confirm or deny them.

Did you listen to Stereolab growing up?

No, not at all, and someone told me about them a couple of days ago. They said, "You should tour with Stereolab if they still played together," or something. Maybe Dan has, but I'm not sure.

Joanna Newsom?

Yeah, I love her so much.

How about Radiohead?

It's kind of a late reference for both of us. ... Dan didn't listen to many songs when he was younger. He was more into instrumental and 20th century classical music or jazz, and I was always like, "Oh everyone's listening to Radiohead," so I wouldn't. ... But it's kind of impossible to ignore.

What was the first band you two connected with?

Wu-Tang Clan. There was a lot of hip-hop. Eminem was also one of them. And Ella Fitzgerald!

they're all so very intimate," she says. "It's very difficult for me to describe."

Upon further discussion, and being asked about the "Both Ways Open Jaws" title, Merilahti reveals more.

"It's about feeling in danger from all parts, and it's also like when you're in danger, you start to protect yourself, so it's also the beginning of aggressiveness," she says. "I'm scared of a lot of things, and I think I'm starting to struggle against that. ... Dan is a very brave guy. When you're exploring emotions and taking chances in the studio, it requires a lot of courage."

 **PAT HEALY**
pat.healy@metro.us

Box office

Early 'New Year's Eve' wins weekend box office

An early "New Year's Eve"

led the weekend box office charts as movie audiences turned to the holiday romance over new comedy "The Sitter."

"New Year's Eve," a romantic comedy with a star-packed ensemble cast, rung up \$13.7 million in

ticket sales at U.S. and Canadian theaters during the weekend, according to studio estimates compiled by Reuters yesterday.

Adult comedy "The Sitter," starring Jonah Hill as a reluctant babysitter, brought in \$10 million and

landed in second place. Third place belonged to vampire romance movie "The Twilight Saga: Breaking Dawn: Part 1" with \$7.9 million.

"New Year's Eve" was produced by New Line Cinema, a unit of Time

Warner Inc.'s Warner Bros., the studio that distributed the film. News Corp.'s 20th Century Fox studio released "The Sitter." Privately held Summit Entertainment released "Breaking Dawn."

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News in brief

Lindsay Lohan says she has learned from mistakes

Actress Lindsay Lohan, in her first interview since being sent to jail last month for a probation violation, tells Playboy that she has learned to be accountable for her mistakes.

The “Mean Girls” star told the magazine in an interview accompanying her 10-page nude pictorial that during the past five years she’s come to understand “that ultimately we are responsible for ourselves and our own actions.”

Magazine founder Hugh Hefner has said he advanced the street date of the issue — in which a blonde Lohan channels her idol Marilyn Monroe’s famed 1953 Playboy photo



“During the past five years, I’ve learned that time flies faster than you think — and because you only live once you have to learn from your mistakes, live your dreams and be accountable.”

LOHAN

spread — in part because photos were leaked online.

The Lohan issue hit Playboy’s website on Saturday, and the magazine lands on newsstands Dec. 16, one day after Lohan’s scheduled interview on Ellen Degeneres’ daytime TV talk show.

The former child star whose career has suffered in recent years following arrests for drunken driving, drug possession and theft, told Playboy she would have done things differently in her recent years of trouble.

“Looking back, I probably would have listened to and taken more advice from the people I admire and would have followed through with it more,” Lohan said.

“My stubbornness at 18 and 19 years old got in the way,” she said. “During the past five years, I’ve learned that time flies faster than you think — and because you only live once you have to learn from your mistakes, live your dreams and be accountable.”

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Employee of the Month: That'd be ol' Santa Claus

► We caught up with a Macy's Santa to talk job perks, the economy and elf bonuses ► This year's hot gifts

What's so great about your job, Santa Claus?

It all comes down to bringing joy to children of all ages at this special time of year. And free milk and cookies don't hurt either. **How are you managing in this economy?**

The North Pole's economy is in a very different place than the rest of the world's. We've suffered before, but this recession will not sink the North Pole.

Are workaholics on the nice or naughty list?

Cookie raise

Is there an end-of-year bonus for the elves?

Of course. The elves get the same bonus they get every year: an extra batch of cookies and milk.

It's a case-by-case basis. As long as you're happy with what you're doing, that's what really matters.

What's the most asked-for present this year?

Kids are still asking for dolls, and there's been a resurgence of older toys. They also want iPads, both children and adults. Of course, many adults want better jobs as well as health and happiness.

Anything else you'd like to add?

Just that I wish everyone a Merry Christmas. And remember, Santa Claus loves you.

JULIA WEST
letters@metro.us



► The magic of a Macy's Santa: Edmund Gwenn starred as the aptly named Kris Kringle in "Miracle on 34th Street."

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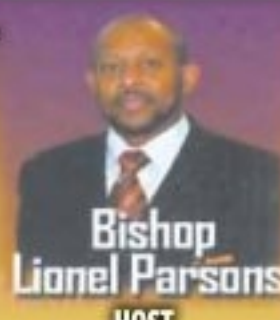
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What good communication

- ▶ Sending a memo doesn't necessarily count
- ▶ Why information and communication are not the same thing
- ▶ How you can improve on your skills

It's a common workplace complaint in almost any industry: "There's no communication around here." But as much as it might be lamented in the cubicles, managers are frequently baffled by the gripe, says Dianna Booher, a productivity and communications consultant and author of more than 40 books, including the newly revised "Communicate with Confidence!"

"It's a recurring issue. When I talk to CEOs, they're always puzzled. They say, 'How can people say that? We give out information all the time,'"

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says Booher. "I can sum it up for them in four words: Information is not communication."

That said, don't be that guy whining about the lack of communication. Nobody likes that guy. Instead, be proactive and raise the bar with these tips. "People talk about voter apathy all the time,

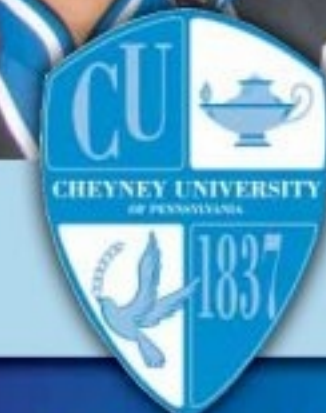
but a lot of times you see it in the workplace," says Booher. "But you can change things."

Tell the truth – the whole truth

It's not enough to tell your co-workers that you'll hit the deadline. You also need to mention that in order to do so, you had to alter the project and rely on your strung-out intern to do sensitive research. "It's got to be the truth, but it also has to be the entire, current truth," says Booher. "If you withhold bad news, people go to other sources."



▶ Actually having a dialogue with your co-workers is key.



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really means

Make sure you have discussions

Evaluate your conversations with your co-workers: Is there a back-and-forth and some healthy debate on occasion? It's a good sign if people think your opinion is worth changing. "If you feel like everybody agrees with you, something's wrong," says Booher. "There's a one-way communication system there, and that's not what you want."

Care, or at least get good at pretending you do

"It's a cliché that people don't care what you say, they have to know that you care about them when you say it — but it's true," says Booher. "If your staff thinks you only care about the numbers, then they'll tune you out."

 **MONICA WEYMOUTH**
monica.weymouth@metro.us

Why it's worth it

Good communication is more than just a nice idea to throw around at company retreats. "Companies are far more profitable when there's good communication," says Booher.

"Employees are more productive and there's less turnover. Most of the time, people don't leave companies because they don't like the work — they leave because they don't like the culture."

News in brief

Half of workers will shop online at work

Fifty percent of U.S. workers will do holiday shopping while on the clock, according to a survey by CareerBuilder. But it's not strictly a holiday thing:



Two-thirds report doing non-work Web searches.

Twenty-two percent of employers have fired someone over non-work Internet usage, and seven percent of HR managers report firing an employee over holiday shopping.

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myeducation

A complex answer to a simple question

► The new book 'What Is Education?' takes a philosophical look at the classroom and the purpose of educating students ► How our system stacks up

At 83, Philip W. Jackson has authored dozens of books on education philosophy, including the 1968 classic, "Life In Classrooms," still used by education majors around the globe. "What Is Education?" marks his return to the basic questions he pondered half a century ago, beginning with his initial fascination with seminal American education theorist, John Dewey. **How has your philosophy of education evolved since you first encountered John Dewey?**

I read Dewey's 1938 ['What Is Education'] speech when I was training to become a teacher. It puzzled me because he was addressing professional educators, and he implored them to consider that basic question. I started to look at Dewey's early training as a philosopher. He was a Hegelian. So I tried to take Hegel seriously, and I eventually became more of a Hegelian

How Hegel changed him

I began to see that philosophy, religion, art and education are all more closely allied than we're used to treating them. We're enamored in education with measurement. So, we tend to focus on those that are easiest to quantify, like science and math, while the arts get short shrift in policy-making.

than Dewey. That's what this book is about: my own adventure — amateurishly, I suppose — to become a philosopher.

We hear a lot about the United States falling behind other countries in education.

The comparisons that are made — which place us unfavorably, according to some, on the international yardstick — do so only in subjects that are very easily measurable. It's in those subjects that the other nations are beating us, as it were. We're worried about that. But we've been worried about that recurrently. I feel that's unfortunate. It's short-sighted. Are we really helping our students become more thoughtful, better civic citizens? Are we helping them to become wiser, rather than just full of information? Those are more interesting questions.

BRUCE WALSH
bruce.walsh@metro.us

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Could gum chewing boost grades?

If you find yourself in a pinch before an exam, chew on this: A study suggests that popping a stick of your favorite sticky stuff five minutes before taking a test could actually help improve your score.

St. Lawrence University Assistant Professor of Psychology Serge Onyper, the lead researcher, found that among about 80 undergrad students, gum-chewers did better on their tests than non-gum-chewers. Those who chewed experienced "mastication-induced arousal," leading to a boost in performance, but it only lasted for about the first 20 minutes of test-taking.

Physical activity has been proven to boost students' classroom performance, but this study shows that even mild activity, like gum chewing, can have a positive effect on the brain.

Just be sure to spit out the gum before the test. The study found that chewing gum could detract from performance due to "a sharing of resources by cognitive and masticatory processes."

● CASSANDRA GARRISON

Led by Serge Onyper, assistant professor of psychology at St. Lawrence University, researchers found that gum-chewing students did better on tests than those studying gum-free.



► Chew on this: Gum chewing might improve your grades.

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Letters

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Why obscure dirty truths?

RE: "NO DISCOURSE IN DRUG WAR?": Common sense requires that at this time of economic hardship, people should keep their strong beliefs away and do their job or else hang on to their beliefs if they interfere with work. Obviously policemen are human beings, not robots who cannot take the barometric readings of their environment. When the Mexican president came here and made it clear that his country's drug problem would be greatly curtailed if American demand were cut

down, that was a powerful message for everybody — our president, Congress and all of us, including law enforcement agencies. Playing ostrich with such an issue is most certainly not what the policemen need to do at this time.

JOHN DINGA, VIA E-MAIL

Elementary schools, colleges and police academies are routinely teaching lies about what we are all mandated to call "marihuana" since Aug. 8, 1937. This upcoming year will herald the 75th anniversary of marihuana prohibition — and we'll have surpassed 23

million arrests for same, merely in America, where it all started.

MATTHEW STOVER, PHILADELPHIA

OWS may be on to something

I can to some extent have sympathy toward youths wasting their time to make their point. To make things better, we probably have to get rid of all our representatives and pick up better ones. Clean the house does not mean to destroy it — we need Wall Street and corporations, but they have to be more transparent.

ELENA BRIO, VIA E-MAIL

E-mail your letters: **letters@metro.us**

Keep them as brief as possible, preferably under 100 words. Metro reserves the right to edit all letters. Please include your name and contact information.

Wake up and pay attention

I find it totally astounding that poor and middle class people continue to vote against their own economic self-interest. They have been bamboozled into voting for policies that benefit the elite.

CAROLYN CASEY, VIA E-MAIL

Obama is a wolf in wolf clothes

Obama's pledge to hold Wall Street accountable is hilarious. All he has to do is investigate and prosecute. He handed them the first bailout that G.W. Bush designed, appointed Geithner, Bernanke and Paulson. He's a neo-con in blue. Expecting help from Obama is self-delusion. **CHARLES MICHAEL COUCH, VIA E-MAIL**

Horoscope

♊ Sagittarius Nov. 23-Dec. 21. Take nothing for granted and probe deeply when assessing any business dealings. Things could be far more complicated than they appear.

♊ Capricorn Dec. 22-Jan. 19. Don't allow yourself to be unduly influenced by the advice and opinions of some flamboyant friends, especially if it causes you to ignore your own instinctual judgment.

♊ Aquarius Jan. 20-Feb. 19. Fatigue after a busy weekend could cause you to let your attention span and work habits slip somewhat. Remember, carelessness increases the chances of mishap.

♊ Pisces Feb. 20-March 20. Don't put yourself in a position where you have to gamble on the abilities and/or skills of another. If they can't live up to what's necessary, you'll go down with them.

♊ Aries March 21-April 19. It behooves you to get jobs you dislike out of the way first, while you have the energy to handle your disdain for doing them. They'll be 10 times harder to do when you're bushed.

♊ Taurus April 20-May 20. What you say and what you mean are likely to be two totally different things, especially if you're playing games.

♊ Gemini May 21-June 20. It isn't likely to be a particular expenditure that throws your budget out of kilter; it's apt to be all the little, thoughtless purchases that cause a ruckus. Try to be more careful.

♊ Cancer June 21-July 22. Unless you're just openly playing around with friends, sincerity is always essential when dealing with others. Shrewd plays will be unmasked and could tarnish your reputation.

♊ Leo July 23-Aug. 22. Forgo all small talk about things you know should be kept quiet, even when you think no one important is listening. There is always somebody who will squeal and make you look bad.

♊ Virgo Aug. 23-Sept. 22. It's foolish to hang out with anyone who historically expects more from you than they're prepared to give back. Someone may take you for all you've got.

♊ Libra Sept. 23-Oct. 23. Feeling both ambitious and restless at the same time could be cause for concern, because that combination tends to make you spread your forces too thin. You could end up with nothing.

♊ Scorpio Oct. 24-Nov. 22. Get your facts straight and don't jump to conclusions based on juicy but faulty information. Assess developments in a logical, realistic manner.

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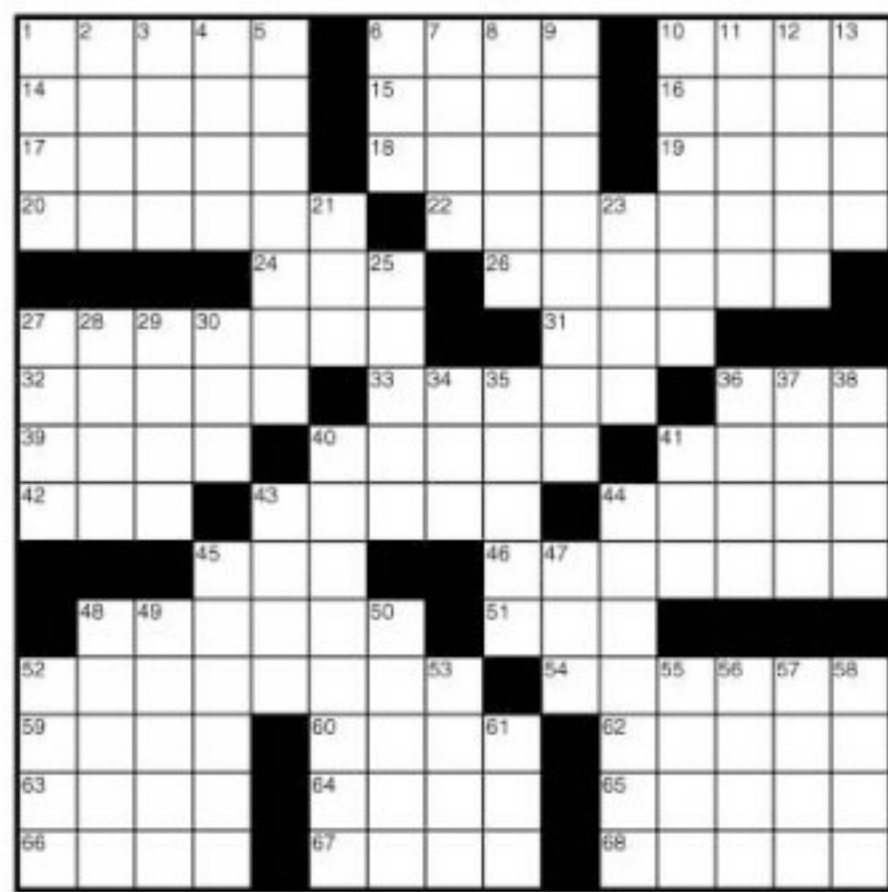
FOR MORE GAMES & PUZZLES

Across

- 1 Belfry or minaret
6 Pulpit
10 Jazzy refrain
14 Gray rock
15 Griffin of game shows
16 Big continent
17 Bolshoi rival
18 Um-hmm (2 wds.)
19 Cotillion
20 14-line poem
22 Remember (2 wds.)
24 Intention
26 Oktoberfest city
27 Early astronomer
31 Make a lap
32 Dubai royalty
33 Future officer
36 Dernier
39 "Rag Mop" brothers
40 Wk. day
41 Cattle mover
42 Fishing pole
43 Abrade
44 In one piece
45 Status
46 Outer ear
48 Zodiac sign
51 Electrical unit, once
52 Pays (2 wds.)
54 Junk food
59 Educ. institution
60 Mimicked
62 Crack filler
63 Fourth dimension
64 Successor to Claudius
65 Slur together
66 Disfigure
67 Tap one's fingers
68 Glazed goody

Down

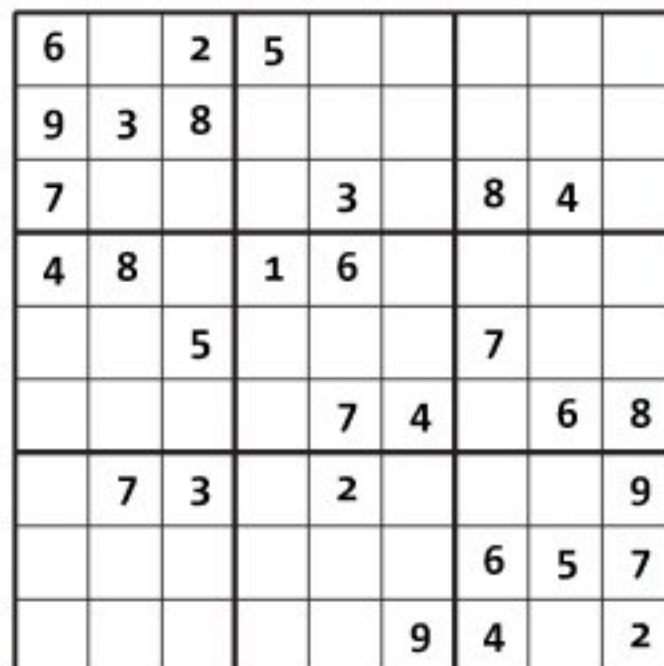
- 1 Clucks
2 Mishmash
3 Notify of peril
4 Famed prep school
5 Discloses
6 Yvette's date
7 Webbing
8 Freshwater fish
9 Wears out
10 food (salad)
11 Asimov or Stern
12 Snitch
13 "Columbo" portrayer
21 Dressy accessory
23 Grow together
25 Coffee variety



- 27 Duffel filler
28 GI supply
29 Emulated Pinocchio
30 1040 agcy.
34 Wiedersehen
35 Improbable wish
36 Gator kin
37 Dice toss
38 fix
40 Large number
41 Upsilon follower
43 Salt or pickle
44 Treated unfairly

- 45 Arrow holder
47 Cousins of "um"
48 Old-fashioned remedy
49 Feminine side
50 Custodian
52 Deposits
53 Inca Empire, once
55 A Guthrie
56 Invent a word
57 Striped antelope
58 Dele's undolng
61 Perignon

- 45 Arrow holder
47 Cousins of "um"
48 Old-fashioned remedy
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SUDOKU LEVEL: EASY

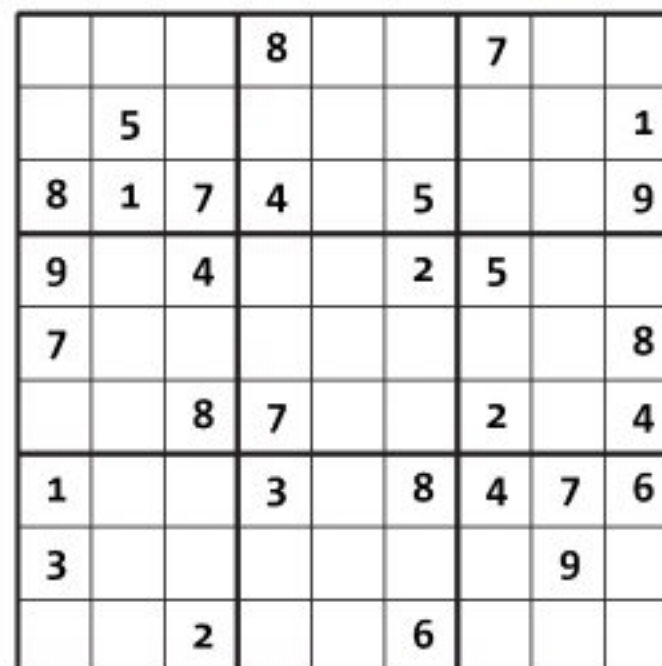
Solution to weekend's crossword



How to play Sudoku: Fill in the grid so that every row, every column and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1-9. There is no math involved. You solve the puzzle with reasoning and logic.

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?

STILL IN THE MIX: BIRDS FILET FISH

► Eagles beat Dolphins, keep slim playoff hopes alive ► Team takes full advantage of three takeaways ► Defense records season-high nine sacks

GETTY IMAGES

What went right ...



1 Getting defensive. Did Juan Castillo save his job? Not yet, but his unit registered nine sacks (third-most in team history), forced three turnovers and slammed the door all three times the Dolphins went for it on fourth down. Playing from behind, Miami was forced to pass often but finished with just 95 yards through the air.

2 Happy DeSean. The last time we saw DeSean Jackson he looked disinterested, with everything. But the receiver was laughing and joking with teammates yesterday, and was seen talking up Mike Vick in the closing minutes. His 34-yard TD in the second quarter stretched the Birds lead to 24-7.

3 Red light district. The Birds turned two of three red-zone trips into six points. Not bad for a team that entered 21st in red-zone efficiency. More importantly, Andy Reid stuck with the run, allowing LeSean McCoy (two TDs) to work between the tackles.

● MIKE GREGER



► Kurt Coleman returns an interception yesterday, as one the Eagles' three takeaways in their win over Miami.

26

EAGLES (5-8)

10

DOLPHINS (4-9)

Reid's team working to get better

Believe it or not the Eagles can still repeat as NFC East champions.

As long as they win their final three games — and the Cowboys go 1-3 and the Giants go 2-2. (Dallas and New York played each other late last night).

With that in mind, coach Andy Reid called his team a "work in progress."

"We're getting better," Reid said. "That's what we're trying to do, get better every week." ● METRO

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What went wrong ...

1 Trick ponies. We're not sure who's decision (special teams coach Bobby April or Reid) it was to call a trick punt return, but it was bad one. With a 10-point lead, DeSean Jackson fielded the punt, then flicked a pass

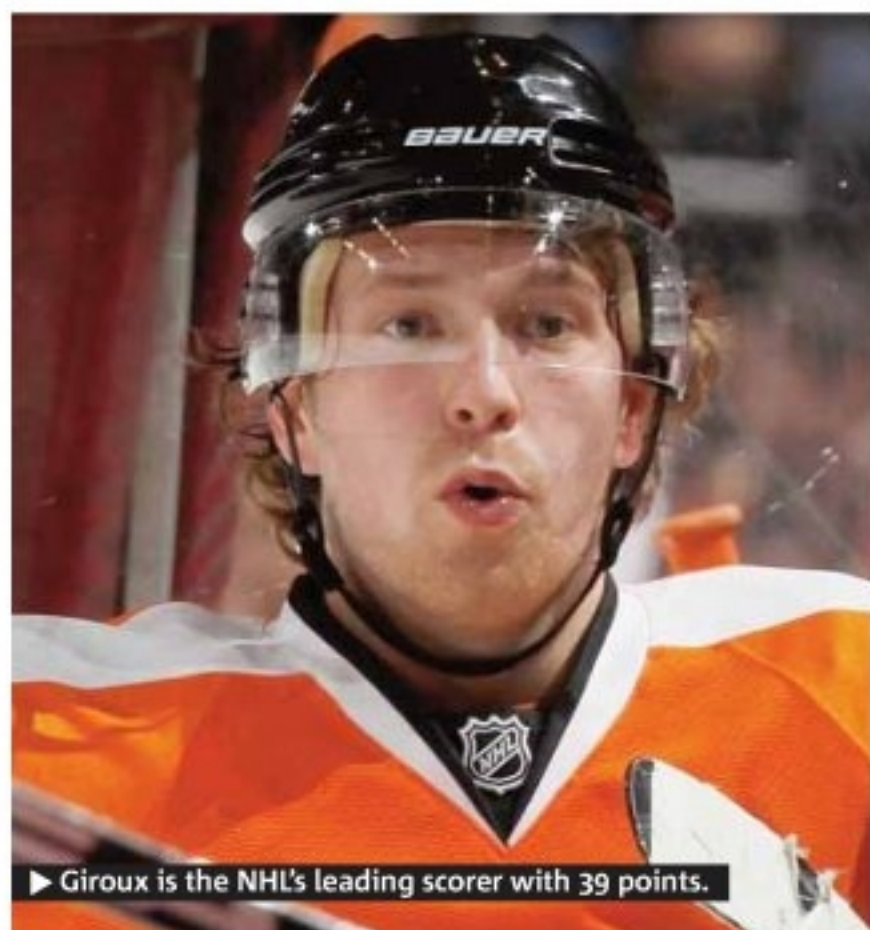
to rookie Curtis Marsh, who fumbled it away. Luckily, Matt Moore fumbled it back to the Eagles on the next play.

2 Liar, liar. Mike Vick promised that he would slide at the end of scrambles and broken plays. However, Vick didn't do it and fell face-first on a few runs. He survived the game,

but was seen undergoing treatment on his lower back.

3 In a rush. Reggie Bush (14 carries, 103 yards) was able to run straight up the gut against the Wide Nine. If the Dolphins hadn't dug such a deep hole for themselves, they probably could have run at will.

● MIKE GREGER



► Giroux is the NHL's leading scorer with 39 points.

Giroux 'feeling better' after friendly collision

► Flyers star to be re-evaluated today after leaving Saturday's win with head injury ► Giroux kneed by teammate ► No concussion talk — yet

Perhaps the Flyers' season didn't flash before GM Paul Holmgren's eyes when Claude Giroux staggered off the ice.

But the next few days figure to be anxious ones for Holmgren, coach Peter Laviolette and everyone else associated with the Orange and Black until they know the NHL's leading scorer is ready to go again.

"Claude has been playing on a different stratosphere here for us, so it obviously hurts," said Holmgren, following the Flyers'

5-2 win Saturday over Tampa Bay. "But it's part of the game. Everybody goes through injury issues. We're just going through our share right now."

Giroux, who was hurt after teammate Wayne Simmonds accidentally kneed him in the back of the head, was "feeling better" yesterday and will be re-evaluated today. He was pulled with two minutes to go in the second period Saturday night.

As of now there's been no mention of the dreaded "C" word, such as the concussion that sidelined Sidney Crosby most of last season and the first 20 games this year.

Quoted

"He's our best player. Obviously, if he's out we're going to miss him big time."

SCOTT HARTNELL, ON GIROUX

But the Flyers will be extra careful with their best player before turning him loose again.

"You look around the league the last few years, it's a scary injury, starting with Crosby," said Danny Briere. "We want to be on the safe side. You want to hope that it is not the

same thing and after a day or two he is going to feel better and ready to go back."

Of course, with concussions you can never be completely sure, as the Flyers recently learned with captain Chris Pronger and rookie Brayden Schenn.

At least for the moment, Giroux — and the Flyers' season — seem to have dodged the concussion bullet.

"He's our best player," said Giroux's linemate Scott Hartnell. "Obviously, if he's out we're going to miss him big time."

JON MARKS
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1000 - Prince, Basil	2135 - Biddy Ellison	3116 - Daniel Robinson
1024 - Turner-Johnson, Yvette D	2286 - Audrey Fields	3124 - Leneal- Nix, Kevin
1060 - Burles, Laimonda	2285 - James, Heath	3148 - Brenda Swangoske
1099 - Allen, Antelone	2328 - Carter, Bryant	1081A - Jones, Jabbar

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1059 - Houston, Sade	1262 - Christopher Jackson	1484 - Nicole Canale
1053 - Trushart, Carolyn	1274 - Portnell, Rosemary	1527 - Smaller, Monique
1056 - Banks, Vaughn A.	1284 - Trushart, Carolyn	1545 - Lewis, Tiffany
1075 - Schmeer, Elizabeth	1334 - Anderson, Gwendolyn	1731 - Reed, Robert
1181 - LATONY HILL	1345 - Andrea gervasio	1801 - Jerry Tompkins
1158 - Allison, Loretta	1387 - Murrell, Kathleen Mary	1806 - Brucellin, James
1223 - Lewis, Victor	1449 - Macintosh, Joseph	

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motoring

Best drives of 2011: Year in review

► Bloomberg's auto critic Jason H. Harper takes ride down memory lane
► Gives take on what he enjoyed most in different categories

Sporty

Sportscar for mortals: BMW 1 Series M Coupe

► The German automaker's detractors say it makes cars that are too heavy, too big, too reliant on technology. The \$47,000 1M is a riposte to all that. BMW's M Division took one of the company's smallest cars and made a driver's dream. This is what BMW's M cars are supposed to be: visceral and fun. A car you take on a Sunday drive and disappear until Monday.

Of all the automobiles I've driven this year, there are only a handful I would like to own and drive again and again.

One fuel-sipper deserves a spot in my garage; next to the hottest sportscar that I could almost afford and the supercar that I never will. (Almost making the cut are a 54-ton tank and an indestructible dune buggy, but those are other stories.)

And then there's one auto that makes so much sense that it seems a shame not to have it — my pick for car of the year. Here are my faves, by category, for 2011. **BLOOMBERG**



Supercar:
Lamborghini Aventador

Supercar: Lamborghini Aventador

You have a half million dollars burning a hole in your Armani trousers. You want exclusivity, an exotic design and car valets drooling. Wouldn't hurt to break 60 mph in less than three seconds, either. Lamborghini's latest \$393,695 flagship, the Aventador, ticks all those boxes. I think it's the greatest Lambo ever.

Economy car: Hyundai Veloster

Nobody wants an economy car. Rather, most of us want a nice-driving, good-looking automobile

that won't sledgehammer us into debt. Hyundai has gotten in the habit of overdelivering very good cars at underwhelming prices. The Veloster is the most out-and-out fun.

Overall 2011 winner – executive sedan: Audi A7

So you can't imagine how you got along without your do-everything smartphone. This is the

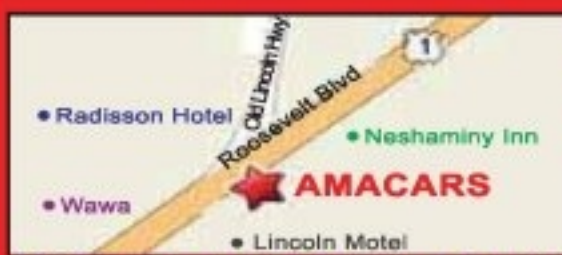
automotive equivalent. The A7's blend of technology, material luxury and highway-conquering drivability is almost eerie. Its stablemate, the new A6, feels staid next to the A7, and the bigger A8 is a bit

too mature. The A7 has just the right amount of style and substance. You could drive your company president around all day, and then pick up a supermodel date at night. Pricing starts around \$60,000.



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Get ready for more Beamers in US

BMW plans to boost its U.S. sales by a quarter in the medium term, the head of the automaker's U.S. business told a German magazine.

"In the medium-term, we expect to sell 300,000 BMW brand cars annually," Ludwig Willisch, the head of BMW's U.S. business, told Automotive News Europe. BMW expects to sell 240,000 BMW brand cars as well as 55,000 Minis in the United States this year, Willisch said.

He left open the timetable for reaching the higher sales goal. The magazine cited sources close to the company as saying BMW was targeting 2013-2014. BMW expects slight growth in the U.S. market in 2012, the magazine quoted BMW's board member in charge of marketing. **REUTERS**

Auto trends don't match with demand

► Buyers like one thing — flex-fuel vehicles — while policymakers favor another — electric autos ► Industry observers say flavor of month trends don't match automotive buyer interest

Public charging stations for electric autos outnumber outlets for alternative motor fuels by almost two to one, even though there are hundreds of times more flex-fuel vehicles than plug-in cars on U.S. roads.

The BGOV Barometer shows drivers of the approximately 16,500 highway-worthy electric vehicles in the U.S. can choose from 4,448 public charging stations should they want to plug in someplace other than home, according to federal data.

That's one per 3.7 electric cars, such as General Motors' Chevrolet Volt, Nissan Motor Co.'s Leaf or



► General Motors' Chevrolet Volt is a chargeable electric car.

Tesla Motors' Roadster. That compares with 2,468 places to fill up the 7.6 million vehicles that can run on E85, a fuel that is 85

percent ethanol. E85-capable vehicles, also known as flex-fuel vehicles, can run on either E85 or traditional gasoline.

The Obama administration is pushing for still more charging stations, with \$230 million in support. "Electricity is the fla-

New flavor

Smith cited E85 and hydrogen fuel-cell cars as examples of technologies that have been favored by the government before the Obama administration chose to promote electric vehicles through policy and spending.

vor of the month, just as others have had their time in the sun, electricity is now there," said Brett Smith, co-director of manufacturing, engineering and technology at the Center for Automotive Research. **BLOOMBERG**

When and where of charging up

The question with public charging stations is whether electric-vehicle

drivers will use them, Smith said. Even a quick charge to "top off" an electric car can take two to three hours, leading most drivers to charge at home or work, he said.

Fifteen electric models

will be brought to market by the end of 2014, according to LMC Automotive, which forecasts a glut of electric cars given they are only about 2 percent of U.S. sales this year.

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The Aberdeen Dad Vail Regatta is the largest intercollegiate regatta in North America and boasts an annual corporate challenge race which sees local businesses battle it out along a 500 meter course. The crews (consisting of 8 + coxswain) begin preparing for the races from February onwards and are coached by qualified rowing instructors throughout their training.

This year, the Regatta Organizing Committee is making facilities available to even more crews to train for the big race in May. Places will be allocated on a first-come, first-serve basis. To find out more and register your crew, visit www.aberdeen-asset.us/dadvail.

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